The South 40

Temperature changes cause storage concerns

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

If you have grain in metal storage bins, now is the time to watch it closely as temperature changes becomes wider. Condensation can cause damage to the grain.

Another item to check is for insects. Some studies indicate that only 10% of all stored grains are protected by grain insecticides and that 75% of all stored grain contains live insects.

It doesn't have to be this way - insect riddled grain brings less when it's sold or is worth less when fed to livestock.

Grain bins that have been emptied need to be thoroughly cleaned. Any spilled grain needs to be recovered and fed or destroyed. Loose grain around a bin during spring and summer is a good place for insects to raise. Spray the interior and around openings with malathion, methoxychlor or pyrethrins plus piperonyl butoxide after bin has been cleaned. Weeds around bins are a hiding place for rodents who feed on loose grain.

Watch bins with grain --they may need to be treated with a fumigant.

* * *

Tobacco plant beds are drying out on top. Put the irrigation system in place - keep the plants growing.

Plants growing under cheese cloth covers may have been injured by last week's cold. Cold injury appears as yellow leaves. Add 3 pounds 16% nitrate soda per 100 square yards and irrigate.

* * *

Several weeks ago the question was, "Will black snakes cross with poisonous snakes?" The answer is, No. If you observe a black snake coiled with a poisonous snake, there's a good chance the poisonous snake is being eaten --it appears that the poison does injure the black snake.

The second question, "How many people are killed annually in Virginia by snakes?" I couldn't get any figures, but more are killed by bees, wasps, etc. than by snakes. Newly born rattlesnakes are colorful--sometimes children will pick them up, put them in a shirt pocket and be bitten.

* * *

1982 corn production in this county was 86.5 bushels compared with a state average of 105 bushels.

Corn silage yield for Appomattox was 15 tons compared to a state average of 16 tons.

* * *

Per capita consumption of milk and milk products jumped 3.5% last year, the highest level since 1969. With increases in '82 and '81, it was the first year-to-year increase since 1979.

* * *

Put these dates on your calendar: Lynchburg Holstein Sale--August 31, Yearling Cattle Sale--September 8, First Feeder Calf Sale--September 29, 2nd Feeder Calf Sale--October 20, and Calf and Yearling Sale--November 3.

On September 29 Farmville will hold a calf and yearling sale at 9:30

* * *

A new procedure has been developed for selling slaughter cattle by Tel-o-auction based on carcass weight and grade with cattle remainine on the farm. If interested, give me a call or come by and we'll discuss the details.

* * *

We are approaching the time to put fly tags on cattle. Most of the tags that I've seen on the market contain either fenvalerate or permethrin. These active ingredients are synthetic pyrethrins. There are wide differences in prices. I've seen the range from 88c to $1.40.

Which is the most effective? We don't have enough information presently to really say--but in another year we should be able to have some results. I would probably buy the least expensive.

* * *

On Saturday, June 25, 10:00-2:00, Buntings' Nurseries at Selbyville, Del. is hosting a field day for strawberry growers. The site is two hours north of Bay Bridge Tunnel. Growers are invited. The program will relate to rennovation and weed control.

* * *

State 24C Special Local Needs Labels have recently been granted to Dow Chemical Company for Lorsban 15G and Lorsban 4E to be applied to the soil before planting and incorporated for the control of wireworm and cutworm on tobacco.

Proxol 80 SP, produced by the TUCO Division of UpJohn also has a state 24C label for application as a foliar spray to control cutworms on tobacco. This treatment should be applied in late afternoon after some damage has been observed.

In each case, the labeling must be in the possession of the user at the time of the pesticide application. We can provide a copy if needed.

WANDA HARRIS, VICKI GLOVER AND MARGARET GLOVER, of the Appomattox County Farm Bureau Women, talk with Congressman Dan Daniel at a congressional meeting held recently in Keysville. Daniel discussed issues such as government farm programs, entitlement programs, tax cuts and indexing, international trade expansion, environmental laws, natural gas deregulation, the Clean Air act, wilderness areas and public land and a variety of other subjects in response to questions from Farm Bureau members.

ASCS Today

By TOM CONRAD

Protect Crop Acreage Bases, Farmers Advised - All farmers need to file an acreage report, whether they participate in farm programs or not. The acreage reports are used to determine compliance with farm programs and to document the crop acreage for establishing future crop acreage bases.

To be eligible for price support loans, target prices and other program benefits, farmers are required to report the actual planted acreage on a field-by-field basis. As of May 13, 75 farmers in the county had reported fall-seeded and spring-seeded crops.

Farmers who did not sign up for the programs also could benefit by certifying their planted acres because the reported 1983 acreage may be used in establishing the 1984 base acres.

To verify that acreage reports are accurate, ASCS will randomly check farms and also provide aerial photographs for farmers to identify their fields. Farmers may request pre-measurement and other producer services to be sure reports are accurate and avoid unnecessary worry over the loss of program benefits. The service is provided for a nominal fee and the measurements are guaranteed for the crop year.

Appomattox County farmers have from now through June 1 to report spring and fall seeded small grains; and now through July 1 to report corn, tobacco and soybeans. Zero reports should also be reported. Acreage reports may be filed weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the county ASCS office.

ASCS To Amend Tobacco Program, Invites Comments - To implement provisions of the No Net Cost Tobacco Program Act, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service recently proposed regulations pertaining to the sale or forfeiture of tobacco quotas and allotments owned by corporations, utilities and other entities, except individuals.

Tobacco growers and other interested persons are invited to submit comments on the subject to the Washington ASCS office by May 23.

Under the proposed rule, corporations, government entities, public utilities, schools, churches, organizations and other entities--except individuals-- not "significantly involved" in management or use of land for agricultural purposes and which own flue-cured or burley quotas, must sell them to an active tobacco producer in the same county by December 1, 1983.

If the quota or allotment is not sold within the prescribed time or period, it will be forfeited for reallocation to active burley or flue-cured tobacco growers in the same county.

"Significantly involved" in agriculture means that the entities primary responsibility is the management or use of land for the production of crops which are planted and harvested annually. The entities must also receive more than 50 percent of their gross income from management or use of the land for agricultural purposes.

An individual who owns a farm with a burley or flue-cured tobacco quota, will not have to sell or forfeit the quota under the proposed rules. The individual may continue to produce tobacco with his or her quota, or the quota may be leased and transferred to another farmer in the same county.

Comments on the proposed tobacco program amendment should be mailed to the Director, Tobacco and Peanuts Division, USDA-ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washingotn, D.C. 20013.

Happiness is 4-H

Four Appomattox young people took part in the Central Virginia Livestock Show which was held on Saturday, May 7, at the Livestock Market in Lynchburg. 4-H members Tammie and Jennifer Starner exhibited beef steers while the girls' sisters Tracie and Kris, who are FFA members, showed beef heifers. 4-H and FFA members from six other counties also participated in the show which included market lambs as well as steers and heifers. An awards dinner for show participants and parents and sponsors will be held on May 24 at Jefferson Forest High School.

* * *

Thirty-two 4-H'ers have signed up to plant wildlife feed patches this summer. The seed will include millet, sunflower, and grain sorghum and will be given to the members in late May. Wildlife feed patches provide food and cover for birds and animals during the winter months.

* * *

Summer 4-H sewing classes are being planned for at least five locations in the county. Sewing classes are tentatively planned for Oakville, Stonewall, Pamplin, Red House and Appomattox. Details will be made available to the 4-H members as soon as they are complete. Volunteer instructors are needed to help teach these beginners sewing classes. If you would like to help, please call Mrs. Mack at the Extension Office.

Other special project workshops will be held during the summer months depending on interest of members and availability of volunteer instructors. A survey will be made of 4-H'ers to determine the project area with the greatest interest among our young people.

* * *

The Red House 4-H Club and the Lucky Clover 4-H Club have recently done Chicken Barbeques for their May 4-H programs. Chick-N-Que provides a unique opportunity for 4-H members to learn to barbeque chicken on a charcoal grill. Chick-N-Que contests are held each spring as part of the area and district 4-H contest events. 4-H members can obtain complete details about this project from the Extension Office.

* * *

State 4-H Congress will be held on the Virginia Tech Campus during the weeks of June 20-24. Senior 4-H members who have been district winners in presentations judging teams and achievement records will have the opportunity to attend.

New cattle breeding aid used in county

A new product to aid in breeding cattle was introduced this year. Edwin Anderson, Appomattox cattleman, is using Synchro-Mate-B on his females for estrous synchronization.

For the past two to four years, there has been two prostagiandin products on the market sold under the trade names Estramate and Lutalyse. Both do a good job when properly used.

Synchro-Mate-B is an entirely different product and just been cleared by FDA. It may not be used on lactating dairy animals.

The manufacturer says this new product enables the producer to utilize the concept of breeding without heat detection to its full advantage. Females are injected with two cc's of a combination of Norgestomet and Estradial. This in effect brings the animals out of heat into the program. At the time of injection, each female is given an ear implant of 6.0 milligrams Norgestromet. The purpose of the implant is to create an artificial corpus lutem. After nine days, the implants are removed from the ear. Forty-eight to fifty-four hours later, the cows are bred on appointment or may be bred on observed standing heat.

On cows suckling calves, it is suggested that after the implant is removed that calves be removed from their dams twelve hours after removal of the implant and kept off their mothers for 48 hours before putting them back together.

The implant is a clear piece of plastic that has been impregnated with a hormone. Removal is not extremely difficult, but does require some patience.

Reception scheduled

A reception is planned for the Rev. Jim Vaught and his family Sunday, May 22 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Red Oak Baptist Church, Oakville.

The Rev. Vaught has served as pastor of Red Oak for the past year and a half. He has resigned and will be leaving to assume new duties as chaplain of Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg on July 1.

The church welcomes all of the Rev. Vaught's friends and associates to this reception.

Wedding is this Saturday

Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Jamerson proudly announce the forthcoming marriage of his mother, Naomi Bryant Jamerson of Appomattox to Herbert Lee Handy, Sr. of Appomattox on Saturday, May 21, at 2 p.m. in the Vera Church of God.

Although no invitations will be sent, all friends and relatives are cordially invited to attend.

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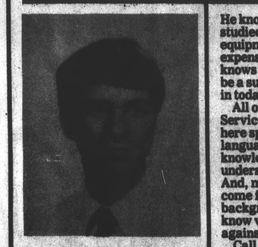

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THE APPOMATTOX VOLUNTEER FIRE Department recently received a "like new" 30 hp pump, a heavy-duty hose cart, several hundred feet of hose and other fire fighting equipment from the National Park Service. The equipment formerly provided the emergency fire fighting capability for Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. With the completion of the new water system, including nine fire hydrants in the village late last year, the equipment was no longer needed by the park. "We hope that the fire department will be able to put the equipment to good use," said Superintendent, Jon B. Montgomery as he transferred it to Fire Chief, Hugh Mitchell.

APS Field Day

Appomattox Primary School is preparing for its Annual Field Day on Monday, May 23, 1983. Children should come to school dressed for lots of outdoor fun.

This year the students of APS will participate in a variety of games. Some events are a baton passing relay, scooter relay, and sack race.

There will also be obstacle courses, a tug-of-war and lots more. Parent volunteers are reminded to meet in the cafeteria at 8:30 a.m.. (or 12:30 for those helping in the afternoon). Anyone with any questions or would like to help should contact Jan Jennings at the Primary School 352-5766.

Open house at 'Mt. Comfort'

The DuVal - Johns home, known as Mt. Comfort Plantation, in Appomattox County will hold a spring open house on Saturday, May 21, 1983. Hours the home will be open to visitors will be from 1 to 5 p.m. and the public is invited to tour this old colonial plantation home. Price of admission will be 50 C each.

Mt. Comfort was constructed in the late 1700's and is one of the oldest homes in Appomattox County. The house is situated high atop a hill with a picturesque view of the Peaks of Otter and the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is a beautiful, three story, white frame country manor with green shutters and roof.

The dwelling was restored in 1970 and has 14 rooms and 7 usable fireplaces. All of the woodwork inside is original including the doors, mantels, pine panel wainscoating, wide heart pine flooring, and hand hewn exposed beams. Much of the original construction was with pegs, and where nails were used, they are the old square blacksmith made style.

One unique feature of the house is that separate staircases ascend to each of the five upstairs bedrooms.

The yard is beautifully landscaped with English boxwoods around the house and down the old brick walk, and a split rail fence encloses nearly two acres of lawn which adds to the charming colonial setting.

The home was first owned by Major William DuVal, a Revoluntary War officer, a prominent Richmond attorney, and wealthy businessman. Major DuVal was very prominent in the newly formed colonies and served in the House of Delegates as well as being one of the men in charge of moving the seat of government from Williamsburg to Richmond.

After the death of William DuVal, the home was sold to Colonel John Johns and was passed down to his son and granddaughter. The Johns' family is well known in the Appomattox County area since Captain Thomas W. Johns was the county's first Commissioner of revenue. His daughter, Miss Deane Johns, taught school in Appomattox County for many years.

The home is listed in the book "Old Virginia Houses - The Piedmont" by Emilee Hines. In addition, the home is the subject of a new book written by the current owners entitled, "Mt. Comfort Plantation - A History and Description of an Authentic Colonial Virginia Home."

The tour is being sponsored by the current owners of the home, Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Guild with help from some of the members of the Appomattox County Historical Society. The owners have requested that no high heeled shoes be worn and that no photographs be taken inside the home.

To reach Mt. Comfort from Appomattox travel 3.5 miles north on Route 26, turn right on Route 711, go straight through the brick entrance and go .7 mile to the house. Mt. Comfort is easy to find and the tour is an interesting step back into colonial times. Hostesses will be in costume to make your visit an enjoyable one.

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